















An exciting milestone was reached at White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) as the Launch Abort System (LAS) was mated with the Crew Module (CM) on the test pad in preparation for the upcoming Pad Abort 1 flight test. All of the hardware is in place for the May 6 test. The PA-1 team will spend the next few weeks performing systems tests (including a mission rehearsal) and will close out all pad and vehicle operations.





The Sensor Test for Orion RelNav Risk Mitigation (STORRM) Reflective Elements (shown in kit above right) are set for installation this week by ISS crew member Souichi Noguchi shortly after STS-131 docks to ISS. STORRM team member Byron Meadows was on hand at Kennedy Space Center and briefed the STORRM DTO at a launch reception attended by individuals from private industry, NASA centers and Charlie Bolden, NASA Administrator (shown above left.)

The Launch Abort System (LAS) thermal protective cover fit check (shown right) was performed recently at White Sands Missile Range in support of Pad Abort 1. The thermal cover is used to control the temperature of the motors prior to launch.



